

Message Text

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ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01

SY-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /088 W
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O P 131115Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6203

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 11506

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

GENEVA FOR SAUNDERS: MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: X GDS - 2

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PLO, NL

SUBJECT: SA'IQA DEMANDS RELEASE OF MEMBERS ARRESTED IN HOLLAND

1. SYRIAN-SPONSORED FEDAYEEM ORGANIZATION,
SA'IQA, ISSUED STATEMENT IN BEIRUT SEPT. 12
DEMANDING RELEASE OF FOUR FEDAYEEN ARRESTED BY
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DUTCH AUTHORITIES EARLIER THIS MONTH. SA'IQA

STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT ARRESTEES WERE DISPATCHED TO NETHERLANDS TO CONDUCT OPERATION DESIGNED A) "TO STOP FACILITATING JEWISH IMMIGRATION THROUGH HOLLAND INFO OUR OCCUPIED PALESTINE" AND B) "OBTAIN CLEAR RECOGNITION BY DUTCH GOVT OF LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF PALESTINE PEOPLE." BY CURIOUS INVERSION OF LOGIC, SA'IQA PROCLAIMED THAT ARRESTEES WERE ENGAGED IN "LEGITIMATE POLITICAL TASK" AND THREATENED RETALIATION IF DUTCH GOVT. DOES NOT RELEASE "OUR COMRADES".

2. COMMENT: DECLARATION BY SA'IQA, WHICH A FEW YEARS AGO ATTACKED TRAIN IN AUSTRIA AND THEREBY SUCCESSFULLY CLOSED FACILITIES FOR TRANSIT THROUGH THAT COUNTRY OF JEWISH IMMIGRANTS FROM USSR, REMOVES ALL DOUBT REGARDING AFFILIATION OF ARRESTEES. INDICATIONS ARE THAT ORGANIZATION CONTEMPLATED SIMILAR OPERATION IN NETHERLANDS DIRECTED AGAINST TRAIN. WE HAVE NO RPT NO INDICATION AT THIS TIME OF SYRIAN FOREKNOWLEDGE AND/OR APPROVAL OF THIS PLAN. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT PLO SITUATION AND TACTICS AT PRESENT DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THOSE PERTAINING AT TIME OF AUSTRIAN ADVENTURE. OPERATION OF KIND PLANNED IN NETHERLANDS RUNS COUNTER TO RECENT PLO "MODERATE" CONCENTRATION UPON OPERATIONS INSIDE ISRAELI-HELD TERRITORY AND COULD BE GREAT EMBARRASSMENT TO 'ARAFAT AT TIME WHEN HE IS STILL ATTEMPTING TO PROJECT 'STATESMAN' IMAGE ON INTERNATIONAL SCENE.

3. WE RECEIVED AT LEAST ONE INDICATION DURING PAST WEEK OF HITCH IN SA'IQA RELATIONS WITHIN PLO. SHAFIG AL HOUT, DIRECTOR OF BEIRUT PLO OFFICE, ACCUSED SA'IQA (WRONGFULLY ACCORDING TO OUR BEST INFORMATION) OF SUBSTANTIAL PARTICIPATION IN CLASHES IN TRIPOLI AREA OF LEBANON. EXPLANATION FOR HOUT'S ALLEGATION REMAINS MYSTERY BUT IT COULD REFLECT STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN SA'IQA (ZUHAYR MOHSEN) AND FATAH ('ARAFAT) OVER A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THE DUTCH OPERATION. MOHSEN WAS ALSO, AT THE TIME OF THIS REMARK, OPPOSING INTRODUCTION OF THE LEBANESE ARMY TO CALM THE

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SITUATION IN TRIPOLI AT SAME TIME PRIMIN KARAME WAS SEEKING 'ARAFAT'S ACCEPTANCE THIS MEASURE. HOWEVER, MOHSEN HAS NOW COME INTO THE "MODERATE" FOLD (PROBABLY AT SYRIAN DIRECTION) RE LEBANESE INTERNAL SITUATION. HE HAS ACCEPTED ROLE OF LEBANESE ARMY IN NORTH OF COUNTRY AND, IN FACT, BEEN SENT TO TRIPOLI TO ASSIST IN QUELLING VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS THERE.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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